

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Donald J. Merkley et al.  
Application No.: 09/970,389  
Filing Date: October 2, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 1791  
Examiner: Mark Halpern  
Confirmation No.: 9683  
For: Method and Apparatus for Reducing Impurities in Cellulose  
Fibers for Manufacture of Fiber Reinforced Cement  
Composite Materials

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VIA EFS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT  
PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION  
[Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)]**

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this paper in reply to an Office Action made final and mailed on January 29, 2008, as well as an Advisory Action mailed April 16, 2008. The documents and remarks provided herein are timely filed pursuant to a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and Petition for Extension of time submitted concurrently herewith.

In view of the following remarks and accompanying documents, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment, believed necessary to bring prosecution to a speedy conclusion and to deal justly by Applicants and the public. Applicants believe this Amendment defines their invention in claims that will give them patent protection to which they are justly entitled. The

Amendment does not introduce new matter or matter requiring an additional search on the part of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and request allowance of claims pending in their Application for patent.

Provided herewith and for consideration with the above-identified Application are the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 3;

**Statement of Substance of Interview under 37 C.F.R § 1.133** that begins on page 7;

**Remarks** that begin on page 9;

**Conclusion** that begins on page 12 of this paper; and

**Appendix** at the end of this paper that includes an executed Declaration submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132.